

HIGHLIGHTS

- 30 Apr - 45,338 persons are vaccinated for COVID-19 since the vaccination start on March 15.
- 27 Apr - Georgia Opens Sinopharm Vaccination Registration
- 19 Apr - Georgia Opens Vaccine Pre-Registration for All Adult Citizens
- 9 Apr - Government Declares May 4-11 as Holidays
- 2 Apr - Vaccination Registration Open for Citizens Over 55

290,767
Total recovered

310,310
Confirmed cases

4,110
Total deaths

99
People in quarantine

Source: www.stopcov.ge 30 April 2021

Georgia situation overview

- 27 Apr - The Ministry of Health today opened registration for vaccination with the Sinopharm vaccine for all persons over the age of 18, while the inoculation process with the Chinese-developed vaccine is expected to start on 4 May. Georgia received 100,000 doses of Sinopharm on April 3.
- 19 Apr - The Georgian Ministry of Health launched vaccination pre-registration for all persons over the age of 18, allowing citizens to indicate their preferred vaccine manufacturers..
- 9 Apr - The Government's Inter-Agency Council declared the period from May 4 to May 11, which directly follows this year's Easter celebrations (April 31-May 3), as public holidays. The Council also recommends employers switch to remote working.
- 2 Apr - According to Deputy Health Minister Tamar Gabunia, citizens over the age of 55 will be able to register to receive COVID-19 vaccination.

Coordination arrangements

- The Prime Minister of Georgia has established and leads an Inter-Governmental Coordination Council to combat the COVID-19 crisis.

Mitigation and response

Detailed report on measure taken by the GoG is translated in English and can be accessed at:

http://gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=ENG&sec_id=41&info_id=76497

Response by the UN agencies, funds and programmes (AFPs)

WHO

- Completed delivery of COVID19 emergency supplies and equipment to Abkhazia.
- Completed quality assurance on the goods that the contractor will procure as part of the preparation processes for a cohort study aimed to evaluate vaccine effectiveness in health workers offers an opportunity to determine the effectiveness of the vaccine early and in a population in which it is critical that an effective vaccine be deployed. Obtaining early estimates of the effectiveness of vaccination in this population can inform decisions about vaccine use in the general population. The project is ready to be launched on 3 May 2021. WHO/Europe has recently developed a protocol “Cohort study to measure COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness among health workers”¹ for prospective investigation of SARS-CoV-2 infection among vaccinated and unvaccinated health workers. The overall aim is to measure the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection (both symptomatic and asymptomatic) amongst hospital health workers eligible for vaccination.
- Completed an online training on genetical analysis on Covid-19 virus. The training was attended by NCDC molecular laboratory technicians from central as well as from the regional offices.
- Countersigned agreement on performance of work on adaptation and Implementation of the WHO Hand Hygiene Monitoring Tool during COVID-19 Pandemic in Medical Institutions in Georgia. Hand hygiene plays an important role, especially in medical institutions such as a part of IPC. Numerous training and exercises on hand hygiene issues have been conducted at this stage, however, the monitoring component remains as a problem.
- Completed coordination and preparation processes for a cohort study aimed to evaluate vaccine effectiveness in health workers offers an opportunity to determine the effectiveness of the vaccine early and in a population in which it is critical that an effective vaccine be

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- Completed COVID-19 vaccination immunization decree revision to include Sinopharm vaccination (ensure compliance with the latest revisions in the COVID-19 vaccine National Deployment Plan) for 18+ age group. Reservation opened on 27 April, with start of vaccination from 4 of May. AZ will be administered for age group 55+.
- Presentation of the results of 7th wave of COVID-19 Behavioral Insight Study for English speaking representatives of UN and development agencies held at 15 April.

UNDP

- With funding from the Swiss and Austrian governments, UNDP provided targeted support to pandemic-affected businesses in nine municipalities of the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region in April 2021. Based on a prior needs assessment, the tailored assistance was prepared in close cooperation with local self-governments (which strengthened the potential for municipal-private cooperation). Fifteen businesses have participated in trainings and business coaching sessions; another 60 are expected to receive targeted support aligned to their individual needs.

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Delivery of IT equipment to the municipal office

- UNDP, in cooperation with the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, used assistance from the Danish Foreign Ministry to support municipalities in coordinating their on-the-ground response to the COVID-19 crisis. UNDP delivered IT equipment to the municipal offices and mayor's representatives across several of Georgia's regions. The equipment will help mayors' representatives to act as facilitators between the rural population and municipal governments and provide municipal e-services. Online meetings will be hosted in a new conference room in Kazbegi City Hall, helping local self-government and civil society actors to better communicate with partners amid the ongoing pandemic.



New conference room in Kazbegi City Hall

- After a lengthy lockdown, the College resumed in-person educational activities in March. Instruction conducted in the first half of the month of April included recommendations on COVID-19 mitigation during educational processes, focusing on essential steps on additional safety, the concept of social distancing, the disinfection of the culinary workplaces and sanitary and hygienic measures in public areas.

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- Under the Joint EU-UN Programme on Improving Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Abkhazia, UNDP arranged a series of instruction sessions for about 20 students, educators and trainers of the Multi-Industrial VET College in Sukhumi. Among other areas, the sessions focused on WHO-recommended safety measures during culinary classes and work-based learning exercises.



Culinary classes at the Multi-Industrial VET College in Sukhumi

- Abkhazia faced an increased number of COVID-19 patients and a shortage of means to transport them to clinics (and PCR tests to laboratories). In response, UNDP, through its UK-based partner HALO Trust, deployed vehicles and ambulance teams. In April, ambulances in Gali and Tkvarcheli districts made 128 trips; transported 644 PCR test samples to the primary COVID-19 laboratory in Sukhumi; conducted 56 journeys with PCR testing teams; transported 1 COVID-19 patient; provided transportation for doctors of the COVID-19 intensive care unit; and medical equipment on an additional 37 journeys. With a \$115,000 budget, the initiative is funded under the EU Responsive Resource Fund component of the Joint EU-UNDP COBERM programme.
- Responding to the severe pandemic-related economic disruptions that swept across the country, UNDP supported the delivery of food packages and other humanitarian and medical aid to a total of 2,100 vulnerable persons in Abkhazia. During the month of April, UNDP worked with its partner NGO (the UK-based Conciliation Resources) to provide aid packages to 549 vulnerable adults and children in the Sukhumi, Gulripshi, and Tkvarcheli districts and to 220 persons in the Ochamchire district. Vulnerable families were identified in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross and local civil society organizations. The US\$149,920 initiative is funded under the EU Responsive Resource Fund component of the Joint EU-UNDP Confidence Building Early Response Mechanism (COBERM) programme.

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UNICEF

UNICEF Representative, together with the Ambassadors of Norway and Estonia paid a joint visit to the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, visited a school in village Makhuntseti, met with local youth, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations.



@UNICEF/GEO-2021/Tsetskhladze

- UNICEF continues to support the COVID-19 vaccination process through the provision of social media analytics on vaccines and promoting vaccination through telling the stories of doctors (Ketevan, Tako, Tamuna, David) who got their vaccines. The doctors shared their motivations on getting vaccinated, along with supportive information about the benefits of vaccination.
- With financial support from USAID, 60 Youth Health Ambassadors around the country continue creating and sharing communications packages on COVID-19 prevention measures, as well as holding community meetings where they share the knowledge they received during trainings provided as part of the project. A total of 35 peer seminars/discussion workshops were completed.

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- UNICEF, in partnership with the parents' network "Parents for Education", supported parents through online meetings and educational resources on how to communicate with children, how to use positive parenting skills, how to become supporters of children and help them during online schooling. Over 300,000 parents were engaged in the project, including through 35 different multimedia products, including webinars, online quizzes, video blogs and reading materials. The last webinar - a webinar for parents of teenagers about how to increase their motivation to study and learn was attended live by 700 parents and later viewed by 31,000 social media users, with views and shares growing daily.
- On March 30, the findings from Real Time Monitoring Survey conducted by the National Statistics Office of Georgia, with support from UNICEF and with financial resources from USAID, were presented to stakeholders. The effect of the pandemic on household incomes and employment; protective measures against COVID infection employed by the households; and effect on children's education were explored and presented.
- With financial support from USAID, a centralised online platform at the Emergency Situations Coordination and Urgent Assistance Centre is now operational, with 1,300 rural primary healthcare professionals undergoing training in the management of suspected or diagnosed COVID-19 cases.
- On 2 April, the Public Defender's Office of Georgia, with support from UNICEF, presented a study on the effects of COVID-19 on child labour.

IOM

- IOM provided pre-departure financial assistance to address the immediate needs of 10 vulnerable migrants from Algeria, Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Iran, Morocco and Turkmenistan and mediated in obtaining consular services for 12 migrants from Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Somalia, Thailand and Uzbekistan, all stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19.

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- IOM assisted 32 migrants stranded in Georgia due to COVID-19 with voluntary return to Cameroon, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Somalia and Uzbekistan (including one victim of trafficking in human beings).
- IOM Missions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia published a joint appeal for 7,7 Million USD to cover COVID-19 response and recovery needs in the South Caucasus between January and December 2021, in alignment with IOM's 2021 Global COVID-19 Strategic Response and Recovery Plan (SRRP). The plans described in the Appeal span diverse areas of work: coordination and partnerships, risk communication and community engagement, point of entry, protection, displacement tracking, as well as logistics, procurement, and supply chain management, corresponding to existing IOM capacities and expertise in the region.
- On 15 April IOM Georgia has installed outdoor photo exhibition - "COVID-19 and Faces of Migration" in Telavi, which captures stories and hopes of migrants and their families in the times of pandemic.



- IOM Georgia issued a brief on the situation and needs of Georgian migrants who are abroad in times of global pandemic. As international mobility came to a standstill and nations restricted movement across their borders, it has been widely accepted that the COVID-19 pandemic has put international migrants, those temporarily outside their country of origin, as well as populations dependent on mobility in a uniquely vulnerable position.

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Important links to follow

General:

- <https://hr.un.org/page/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>
- <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/covid-19-outbreak-readiness-and-response>
- <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/strategic-preparedness-and-response-plan-for-the-new-coronavirus>
- Disaster management and contingency planning: <https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/2527>
- WHO Whatsapp Thread for Q&A: <http://bit.ly/who-covid19-whatsapp>
- UNIDO COVID-19 Industrial Recovery Programme, <https://www.unido.org/news/unido-launches-covid-19-industrial-recovery-programme>
- UNIDO's publication "COVID-19: Digital Transformation and Industrial Recovery" <https://hub.unido.org/sites/default/files/publications/UNIDO-COVID-Digital%20Transformation.pdf>.

Georgia:

- Government of Georgia website on COVID-19 <https://stopcov.ge/en>
- National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health [COVID-19 related information, including epidemiology, education materials and regulations: <https://www.ncdc.ge/Pages/User/News.aspx?ID=66254a4e-6c23-49ef-9157-4fcc247db00c>
- Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia hotline: 1505 U
- UNICEF Georgia supported COVID-19 hotline to provide assistance to children and their families: **111**
- Government of Georgia hotline: **144**
- Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Emergency and Operative Response Centre: **112**
- COVID-19 Georgia live blog: <https://civil.ge/archives/342486>

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